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## Let's go!

Winterdance Dogsled Tours are in full force now that their trails have enough snow on their 2,000 acres of land off of Hodgson road near Haliburton Lake.

Both visitors and dogs enjoyed gliding through the forest for a two hour trip on Friday, Jan. 13. For more information, visit winterdance.com. See more photos on page 8.

/VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



## Influenza instances waning, says region's medical officer of health

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Influenza in the Haliburton, Kawartha, and Pine Ridge public health region seems to be declining since its peak in December.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of

health for the region, said there's been fewer instances of the respiratory illness, fewer outbreaks being declared, and fewer admissions to hospitals for influenza.

"Since the beginning of December, it's actually come back down," she said. "We're still above what's expected for seasonal averages, but much improved since

that peak at the beginning of December."

The decrease is likely due to an easing in the transmission of the flu locally.

Obviously, this is good news, she said. In southern jurisdictions where flu season begins earlier, Bocking said there's been a trend in which the illness increased quickly, peaked at a higher than usual level, and dropped rather quickly.

"It seems to be staying down," she said. "Certainly there's still some activity, but it doesn't seem to be having a second peak or a third peak."

Bocking said public health officials are hopeful the brunt of the flu season has passed.

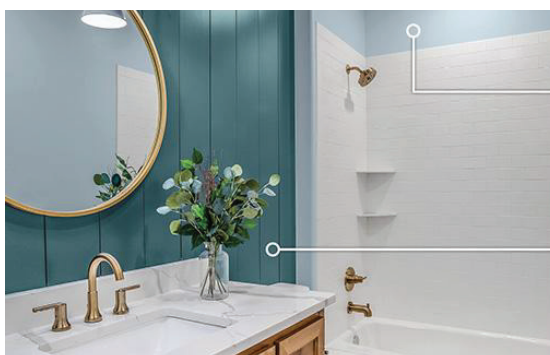
"There will still be influenza cases," she

see COUNTY page 2

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Our 2023 Color of the Year is Vining Ivy, a beautifully robust and refined blue-green.





## Razzamataz breaks barriers

The Razzamataz performance by Indigenous dance group Odawa Wiingushk featured various dances that encouraged audience at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Sunday, Jan. 15. Funded by Ontario Presents, the performance "aimed at shining a spotlight on under-served artists who are often made invisible by barriers such as race, language, and sexual orientation and in this case, a colonial legacy," through an immersive experience for children, said Nicole Stewart, chair of Razzamataz.

/ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

# Robinson's closed for now

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

The historic Robinson's General Store in Dorset has closed its doors temporarily. As of Jan. 8 at 5 p.m., a sign appeared on the front door of the store, letting customers know that the "store is temporarily closed until further notice." On their Google listing, their hours of operation have been changed to a red bar stating "temporarily closed," and their voicemail cuts to dead air.

The news of the closure has left many locals scrambling to understand the sudden change, and wondering what the next steps will be.

Mike Hinbest, who took over ownership of Robinson's in 2021, told the *Echo* that his family has run into a series of personal and financial hardships over the past year. "We've lost everything," said Hinbest. "We poured every single thing we had into this business."

Hinbest said that he has received a series of threats and negative backlash from the online world, but he and his family have tried everything to make the store work. Between interest rates rising and the housing market crashing, Hinbest feels he has no other choices but to move on.

The Hinbest family are in the process of transacting the business back to the Robinson family, with whom they have had transparent communications with throughout the years, and were aware of this change. He noted that prior to the closure, he spoke to every single employee at Robinson's, and each one of them was empathetic to the Hinbests personal situation. "The people who really know the story, they're the ones who really care for us."

Hinbest gave a shout-out to the community, for the support and care him and his family have received during this challenging time. He hopes that one day, he can continue to give back to the community in some capacity moving forward.



## HHHS explores feasibility of bringing a CT scan machine to Haliburton County

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has begun to explore whether a CT scan machine can be brought to Haliburton County to help improve patient outcomes and deliver important healthcare services closer to home.

"HHHS had planned to include the addition of a CT scan machine as part of our Master Planning process," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS. "We know it would make such a positive impact in the community and that this is something the community has wanted for some time."

As part of this exploration, HHHS has taken steps to conduct a feasibility study. The study will help determine if it is possible to proceed now, rather than wait for the Master Planning process to be completed. If the study demonstrates that a CT scan machine is feasible for HHHS, a full application to the Ministry of Health will

be required.

"While we hope to be successful in this effort, we know we have a long way to go," said Plummer. "We do see so many benefits of having a CT scan machine for everyone in Haliburton County. It would support our patients with quicker diagnostics, help to better meet the needs of our community in terms of screening and prevention, help attract new healthcare workers to the area, and reduce the number of EMS hours currently spent transferring patients out of the County for services."

If an application is made to the Ministry of Health, it will require strong community support. HHHS will share more details with the community as the process starts to unfold.

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Health Services

# County sees early signs of increased COVID-19 spread

from page 1

said. "If you have not yet received your influenza vaccine or your flu shot, I would say it's still worth getting your flu shot."

Most of the flu identified in the region has been influenza A, she said.

But that somewhat good news is tempered by an increase in COVID-19 diagnoses. Provincial test positivity has crept back up to about 17 per cent.

"This is largely still being driven by the variants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1," Bocking said.

Those omicron variants are causing increased transmission and increased outbreaks across Ontario.

Locally, there's been an increase in signs of COVID-19 activity, she said. There's seven outbreaks in the region, six of which are in long-term care facilities.

"I think we could be starting to see very early signs of increased spread of COVID-19 throughout the communities again," she said. "This wouldn't be surprising. Other areas of the province have already seen an increase in activity."

However, the increased activity hasn't translated into a

rise in hospital admissions, she said.

The last year was a challenge because of the coronavirus, with more deaths than previously during the pandemic, she said.

"Despite the fact that omicron as a variant of COVID-19 is less severe than the original virus, the fact that it spread so easily and is still more severe than other respiratory infections such as influenza, it means that we still do see an increased burden on the health care system," she said.

The outlook for 2023, Bocking said, is a trend that sees increased COVID-19 transmission about every 90 days as new variants emerge before the transmission slows.

"We call them waves," she said. "We call them surges. Whatever you want to call it."

And there's no reason to believe that trend will change, especially given the emergence of the XBB1.5 variant that's been spreading throughout the northeastern United States and has been identified in Canada.

"It's very quickly become the most dominant sub-variant," Bocking said.

The good news, she said, is that the latest sub-variant doesn't cause severe illness. Though highly transmissi-

ble, vaccinations will lessen its severity and stave off hospital admissions.

"There continues to be lots of questions about how often it will be recommended to get boosted with COVID-19 vaccines," she said.

That uncertainty will continue as health care providers learn about the protective effect of vaccines and as new variants emerge.

Within the region last fall, almost 60 per cent of residents aged 70 years old and older got a booster dose of vaccine.

"Because the vaccine works well against severe illness, we'd like to see that number as high as we can get it," Bocking said. "And we'll continue to promote the bivalent vaccine for booster doses as long as we know that it continues to still be effective."

She said there continues to be a need for people to wear a mask when in crowded public places. It's an effective way to stymie the illness' spread and to decrease the burden on the health care system.

"Masking is still a really important way that we're also protecting other members of the community, most vulnerable member of the community," she said.



# Haliburton Forest envisions a prosperous future

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

The energy and excitement of the standing-room-only presentation made by Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve's managing director Malcolm Cockwell on Jan. 11 about the future of the Forest was palpable.

Winter coats could be heard swishing as their owners slipped them off during the first few minutes of the very first public screening of *Against the Grain - A Story of a Maverick and his Forest*.

Whispers were sparse and limited.

Gasps and "wows" were intermittently audible throughout both the documentary and presentation; an inspiring comparison of the forest's past passionate leader and future innovative team.

Time stood still in the room heated by enthusiasm for nearly two and a half hours.

There were too many keen questions from listeners to be answered by the end.

The presentation, *Inside Haliburton Forest*, was an installment of the Yours Outdoors Speakers Series held at the HHOA Fish Hatchery on the second Wednesday of each month.

It began with the screening of *Against the Grain*, a documentary created by Sticks and Stones Productions in 2016 about Peter Schleifenbaum, Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve's founder and "Maverick."

"I would fully agree, and I would say I know the fellow very well, especially from back in that period, Peter was and is a Maverick in so many ways," Cockwell said. "Something that I would say with full conviction is that there are very few people that I've met in my life that have the same level of vision, courage, and guts that Peter has when it comes to pursuing his convictions."

The never-before-seen feature highlighted Schleifenbaum's passion for the Forest and the innovative ideas he had, from wolves, to submarine tours, to EcoLog Homes, to help keep the Forest's 100,000 acres protected.

Schleifenbaum is now retired from his countless roles at HFWR.

"I might be his successor in title at Haliburton Forest, but I do not identify as a Maverick at all. I identify as a professional forester that is a manager of the operations at Haliburton Forest, and there's a big difference between them," Cockwell said.

Rather than taking on all roles himself, Cockwell is among a team of others that work together to keep operations at the Forest running smoothly, which is one of the biggest differences between the Forest in 2016 and the Forest now.

"Haliburton Forest was very much run by one brilliant guy back in 2016," Cockwell said. "There are between eight and 12 people today that run Haliburton Forest."

The most significant thing to stay the same at Haliburton Forest: "Before anything else, it is first and foremost, and hopefully always, a large private forest of approximately 100,000 acres."

On top of their own land, Haliburton Forest is now responsible for 1 million acres of Crown Land. They also provide forest management services to other landowners, which adds 200,000 acres of land to their management.

Cockwell showed a photo of a picturesque lake surrounded by red and orange-leaved trees in front of the backdrop of a clear blue sky.

"It looked pretty much like this 500 years ago, and hopefully, if my colleagues



Managing director of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve Malcolm Cockwell claps after the screening of *Against the Grain*, a documentary about Peter Schleifenbaum's leadership of Haliburton Forest in 2016. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

and I do our jobs properly, it'll still look like this 500 years from now."

Cockwell explained that the land itself is just one aspect of their business. As of 2017, they now have a forest products division and a tourism and recreation division, each comprised of many other businesses.

The Forest now employs around 175 people in comparison to 45 people in 2016.

Cockwell went on a "whirlwind tour" of each of the business units under the umbrella of Haliburton Forest.

"If you own a lot of something and it doesn't hurt you to share it, and in fact, if it benefits you to share it, you've got to share it," Cockwell said, explaining why the Forest does as much as it does. "It's the right thing to do to make it accessible to other people."

Haliburton Forest is currently the largest hardwood lumber producer in Ontario.

"We have to work profitably if we want to make the whole thing work. The best way to protect Haliburton Forest from division or development in the future is by making sure it's profitable."

## Looking to the future

Cockwell outlined his vision for where Haliburton Forest will be in 2030; seven years from now as opposed to seven years since the documentary was made.

In regards to the community and environment, he hopes there will be a huge focus on invasive pests.

"I really really hope that by 2030, invasive pests are the daily news about the environment and that climate change goes on the backburner that it belongs on ... I'm not saying that climate change doesn't matter, but invasive pests is a much bigger deal to the environment and our community."

He explained that 10 per cent of our forests have or will die from beech bark disease.

"You've got to make sure there's an environment to protect in the first place."

Speaking about the businesses themselves, in the tourism sector, he said they won't get much bigger, but they do hope

to get better.

"We'll be far ahead of where we are today, and we'll be recognized as a global gem as opposed to a regional or national gem. Hopefully, by 2030, we've found a really good way to spin that off to our local partners ... so that across this region, we're sharing that and also benefiting from it."

He hopes the forest product businesses like sawmills and biochar facilities will continue expanding.

He expects they will be five to 10 times the size they are today by 2030.

"At some point, we'll be big enough, and we'll have to turn our attention to really optimizing."

Cockwell foresees that Haliburton Forest Biochar becomes a main producer of biochar to be used in advanced manufacturing for things like thermoplastics.

To learn more about Haliburton Forest Biochar's recent expansion, visit [haliburtonecho.ca/haliburton-forest-biochar-announces-10-million-expansion/](http://haliburtonecho.ca/haliburton-forest-biochar-announces-10-million-expansion/).

“

*If you own a lot of something and it doesn't hurt you to share it, and in fact, if it benefits you to share it, you've got to share it.*

— Malcolm Cockwell, managing director of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve

"We believe fundamentally, all of my colleagues and I, that the land is going to outlive us. We're only here for a little glimpse of time, and it's going to be here long after we're gone," Cockwell said.

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# Dysart whittles down tax increase

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey believes the township is in good financial straits.

Councillors were presented with the second draft of the municipal budget when it met Jan. 13. The latest draft isn't the final spending picture for the township. Possible further budget changes may depend on the tax rate set by Haliburton County.

When the budget's first draft was presented Dec. 9, the spending plan projected a tax increase of 8.9 per cent over last year.

The second draft is proposing a 2.34 per cent increase per \$100,000 of assessed property value. That's \$7.22 more for the residential tax levy than last year. Basically the cost of ... well, there isn't much you can get for that these days. Perhaps there's a measure of solace in that.

"We've done a pretty good job of paring it down," Fearrey said. "But I still think we got the things in there that are necessary."

Commercial rate payers will have to pony up \$10.71 more than in 2022. And the industrial rate payers are tagged with an extra \$12.41 this year.

Education rate will remain the same as last year. Haliburton County's levy is tentatively projected to be 6.24 per cent increase.

"From what I hear, it's not going to stay there," Fearrey said of the county's levy. "It's going to come down. No one wants to put people in a position where they have to decide whether they're going to buy their pills, their gas, or their groceries. And we do have a lot of that in our community."

He said Dysart has the lowest tax rate within the county and that fact resonates through all the other

classes, whether commercial or industrial. And, he said, the town has been growing about twice as fast as the other townships.

Likewise, said Barbara Swanell, the town's treasurer, demand for municipal services has increased according to population growth.

Without considering any surplus or deficit, currently the working fund reserve is sitting at \$1,762,873.

Primary reserve funds are forecasted to close out 2022 at a little more than \$5.6 million. By the end of this year, Swanell said reserve funds may decrease by about \$1.5 million.

"The significant draw is basically attributed to capital projects, specifically infrastructure projects," she said.

Dysart will spend \$2,169,883 more on capital projects this year over last year. Such projects are projected to come in at \$5,244,413 in 2023.

"There's always a mentality that if you don't spend today, you're going to spend twice as much tomorrow. There's a little bit of truth to that," said Fearrey.

Swanell said the town is closely watching the contract landfill service, specifically for construction and demolition waste. There's a projected \$400,000 deficit there.

John Watson, the town's environmental manager, said there was a 38 per cent increase last year in the construction and demolition waste over 2021. There was a 41 per cent increase in the number of hauls of materials from municipal landfill sites compared to 2021.

"This dramatic increase in the amount of construction and demolition waste that we have experienced, I think, is reflective of our local economy," said Watson.

"People are renovating their homes quite extensively."

Residents trying to get a contractor for a kitchen renovation are having to wait many months for the project to begin. Contractors have weeks of work stacked up.

"Some renovation and construction firms that typi-

cally, traditionally, would close over the winter months remain open now because of the amount of work they have," Watson said. "While that is a boon to our local economy and shows that people want to live here in Dysart ... on the waste management side, we're seeing people needing to dispose of that construction and demolition waste."

And that's the wellspring from which landfills are flooded on the backend.

Watson said last year there was a 112 per cent increase in the cost to process and remove materials from landfills over the previous year. And there was a two per cent decrease in money the town made by way of tipping fees last year.

"Essentially, the amount of material we're managing has increased dramatically," he said. "That means we're having to haul out more frequently. The price to haul and process construction and demolition waste has increase dramatically."

"However, the revenue has flatlined and remained stagnant."

The town will increase the cost to residents to dump furniture to \$20 from the current rate of \$10. The cost to dump construction and demolition waste such as shingles and whatnot will rise from \$60 to \$100 per cubic yard. And that kind of waste mixed with garbage and recycling will cost \$200 per cubic yard to dump at a landfill.

He said those rate changes will increase revenue from \$634,000 to \$834,000.

"It is possible that contractors who maybe work in other municipalities have, unfortunately, been bringing materials to us," Watson said. "There is the potential with this increase in construction and demolition waste tipping fees that will stop as we become the higher priced location."

## Town staff outlines department priorities in HE budget process

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Town staff provided Highlands East town council with an overview of municipal departments.

The departmental snapshot described achievements over the last couple years and details about future objectives. The overview was provided during council's public meeting Jan. 10 because the new slate of councillors, many veterans at the table, weren't given a proper orientation after October's election, said Brittany McCaw, the town's deputy CAO/treasurer.

Worked into the overview were departmental requests to be considered as part of the 2023 municipal operating and capital budget processes.

McCaw said most departments requested more money this year over last year.

"Overall, we are looking at a \$137,962 increase over our capital asks from last year," she said.

From the capital forecast, the numbers will be put into operating budget process.

"We can start to give a full picture to council what it's going to look like for our ask for the 2023, including all of our regular operating items and including our capital projects as it stands," she said. "Unless there's any that council would like to remove or shelve for the time being."

McCaw spoke about the nuts and bolts of taxation, the establishment of budgetary priorities, accounting and auditing processes, and other mechanisms of town business.

The current collective agreement with the town's unionized employees is set to expire at the end of this year.

Among last term's accomplishments in the Administration Department were a building condition assessment, an organizational review, a review of municipal service delivery, and the implementation of climate change initiatives.

"It's really exciting to see the work we've done and where we're going," McCaw said. "There is a large set of projects that we can be proud to have completed."

She said there's a full slate of projects for the future that staff hopes to get face-and-eyes into. Paramount

among those is the completion of a corporate strategic plan and an effort toward opportunities for more housing in town.

Housing is necessary if the town is to recruit qualified staff to fill vacant positions within the municipality.

McCaw said \$100,000 will be transferred to a reserve fund to go toward the construction of a new municipal office.

"We have been doing a transfer to reserves for the past couple years towards the new build," she said. "When we do the build, the increase and the hit to our tax rate won't be as large."

Hand-in-hand with that is the need to hire an architect to design the town offices. There's \$100,000 earmarked for the hire and the design. Of that, \$25,000 comes from a reserve that was set aside during the 2022 budget process.

"This money will come forward for use during this project," McCaw said.

The corporate strategic plan will avail of \$50,000, half of which will be raised through taxes, McCaw said. The town has applied for a grant to go toward the strategic plan, but its status isn't yet known.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall inquired about a process to address tax arrears beyond two years.

McCaw said she'd have to consult with taxation staff, but there's a tax sale this spring for a couple properties.

"But it is our mission to try to work with the property owners," she said. "To tell them, You are in the two years of arrears, and we need you to start making payments."

Haliburton County is also considering a corporate strategic plan, but the upper tier council has elected to use in-house expertise as opposed to recruiting an outside consultant.

Ryall said the content in the Highlands East plan will differ from what will comprise the county's. But, he said, the format and the process by which the plan is completed would be the same.

"Do we need to spend the money on a corporate consultant," Ryall said. "Or could we first work with the county to see if what they're doing makes sense for us and can we apply the same logic here and save us some money?"

McCaw said there isn't anybody at town hall with the

expertise to complete a strategic plan.

Ryall suggested the town "time-lag" themselves behind the county's process so they can get an idea of how to put a strategic plan together.

"We would be able to pick up what they (the county staff) have learned," he said. "So at the end of the day we would not be as dependent on the consultant for the basic information."

Regarding the coin allotted in reserves to hire an architect to design new town offices and the money to get the structure built, Ryall said it's been years since the town looked into a cost estimate for the project.

"How are we going to finance this thing before we spend \$200,000 on something that we may or may not be able to afford?" he said.

Shannon Hunter, the town's CAO/treasurer, said \$100,000 has been tucked away as part of each of the last four municipal budgets.

"The municipality is fortunate enough to have a very healthy reserve base," she said. "So to think that we couldn't afford it is not an answer right now."

Fire Chief Chris Baughman said the department's priorities include ongoing recruitment efforts, the promotion of qualified personnel into leadership roles, and to continue to improve equipment and training.

Ryall said he's heard about the possibility of a county-wide master fire plan. While that's a good thing, he wondered if there's such an effort in the offing specifically for Highlands East.

"All municipalities are planning on implementing a master fire plan," Baughman said.

Jim Alden, property supervisor at the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, said streamlining efficiencies to reduce cost and maximize productivity is at the top of priorities for this year.

"Overall, the department is made up of a good team of people who work well with one another," he said.

There are a number of vehicles to be replaced, he said, and developing a trail master plan is to be done this year.

Ryall said a trails master plan is required. And that's going to lead to areas identified that will require repairs and other areas where trails will need to be built. He said people come to Highlands East to spend time outside walking, riding, and cycling.





## Grooming for Healthcare hits the trails

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) volunteers and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) board members gathered around a groomer to kick off Grooming for Healthcare, a fundraising campaign for HCSA to donate \$1 to HHHSF for every hour of grooming time the designated groomer spends on the Trans Ontario Provincial B103 trail. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## Join Aging Together as Community in their next meeting

Aging Together as Community, a volunteer group in the Haliburton Highlands, is excited to invite you to attend our next Open Community Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 28, 1 to 4 p.m. at the HHOA Haliburton Fish Hatchery, at 6712 Gelert Rd.

Our aim is to bring residents of all ages together to envision opportunities and projects that will make a big difference in the lives of our older residents.

Dr. Barbara Clive, medical director of seniors services of Trillium Health Partners will open our event. She will be speaking on: "What is Dementia? and How to Keep Your Brain Healthy." There will be a

Q and A following the presentation and discussion with Dr. Clive.

We will then review the work of Aging Together during 2022 and ask attendees to participate in building a community vision for 2023.

We seek your insight in learning what is possible and in creating strategies to help us move forward.

We need voices from all walks of life throughout the County to achieve the broadest results. Please feel free to share this information.

Refreshments will be served. Donations are gratefully appreciated. Masks are encouraged.

RSVP at: [fb.me/e/3REk6z8ur](https://fb.me/e/3REk6z8ur) or with David Buwalda, Barnes Management Group at [David.buwalda@barnes-managementgroup.com](mailto:David.buwalda@barnes-managementgroup.com).

A virtual option is available for the meeting and it will be recorded. Zoom link: [us02web.zoom.us/j/87400556234?pwd=TlF5MithSGpocVVwbldlTZDUwemdqdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87400556234?pwd=TlF5MithSGpocVVwbldlTZDUwemdqdz09).

You can find our Aging Together Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089628572228](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089628572228).

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## Gifts from the Heart receives Radio Bingo donation

SIRCH Community Services received \$2,263 from Canoe FM Radio Bingo for SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign, a fundraiser to address pressing issues that residents of Haliburton County face, on Thursday, Jan. 12 at SIRCH Bistro and Bakery. SIRCH communications coordinator Angelica Ingram, from left, and SIRCH administrative coordinator Linda Kay receive the cheque from Canoe FM station manager Roxanne Casey and Canoe FM board chair Paul Vorvis. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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# points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

## Where's our empathy

**T**HE TEMPORARY closure of Robinson's General Store came as a pretty shocking blow to Haliburton County last week.

If you live here or cottage here, you likely know about the iconic store; the heart of the little town of Dorset, north of Carnarvon.

Previously owned by the Robinson family for four generations spanning 100 years, the store was only recently sold to new owners, a young couple fairly fresh to Huntsville, in the spring of 2021.

Consisting of 500 full-time residents and many more season residents, Dorset lost its only grocery store, hardware store, and general store for the time being, leaving many up in arms about the situation.

Or should I say, up in caps lock and hateful words.

The abrupt and unexpected notice on the front door next to the wood-carved moose statue and underneath the old-west-esque "Robinson's General Store" sign is definitely shocking.

It reads, "Store is temporarily closed until further notice."

It's inconvenient to those who use it to fill their fridge and to buy tools to fix squeaky doors.

It's difficult to accept change after being able to go to Robinson's any day of the week.

Like many others, I have been going to the store since I was a kid, picking out a stuffed animal from their toy selection and hoping to get time to play at the park across the street.

Many got to know the Robinson family well. They played a pivotal role in the small community.

This is all cause to feel upset when word of the new owners having to forcibly close the store hit the streets, sure.

But I don't think we should be upset at the new owners. And there certainly shouldn't be threats made out to them over social media.

One of the reasons for the closure listed in Emily Stonehouse's story *Robinson's General Store closed for now* was the rise in interest rates.

Buying a business and taking it over in the middle of a global pandemic would've been an incomprehensible undertaking to anyone who hasn't done it.

I would say that's most of us. We have never done that. We can't know what it's like, and we can't blame them for being put in a difficult situation.

And this certainly wasn't the outcome they were hoping for, either.

"We've lost everything. We poured every single thing we had into this business," Mike said in Emily's article.

Mike, the owner, told the *Echo* and the *Times* that he had received countless upsetting threats over social media after the news broke.

Can you imagine losing your business and having to temporarily lay off devoted employees, and receiving threats to you and your family on top of that?

No matter how upset you are, that's unacceptable behaviour. There's no way for us to know

the full story, so it's always best to think twice before hitting the comment button.

At the end of the day, this is a local family that had to make a really hard decision. Let's not forget to put people over material things.

Let's not forget to have empathy during situations like these. If it were you in their place, how would you feel if you received threats during a low point?

They didn't fail us. We are failing them with attacking comments like the ones Mike has received.

Life is hard and unpredictable, and our community's small. Let's be there for each other and offer words of support whenever possible.



vivian collings

## Editorial



A towering pine on a clear winter day. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

## Belonging

**I** THINK WE all feel better when we have a sense of belonging and a feeling of connection. We live in relationship with ourself, our family, friends, community members and ultimately with all of life.

We are social beings, and I think when we feel alone, isolated or separate is when we struggle. I know that I found it hard in COVID when I couldn't do my regular activities that kept me connected.

I was sitting with friends at a cafe the other day when my husband, Jim, joined us. He sat down and told us a few stories from his morning at the curling rink. He was so happy. Curling has been a part of his life since he moved here.

I found myself thinking about the time when I permanently moved to Haliburton because of my job at Bark Lake. It was 1987, and I was new to the community, living in Gooderham. I wanted to meet people and had never curled in my life, but decided to give it a try.

I will always remember how Don Popple, Art Dawson and many others were so friendly and made me feel welcome right away. Every week, they asked me lots of questions about my life, and for some reason, I told them I had a boyfriend named "Egbert" who lived in Huntsville.

They laughed and laughed and referred to him as "Eggy" all year. The year end curling banquet came, and Jim came over from Huntsville to go with me.

We had a lot of fun with everyone that night when they finally learned his name was Jim.

The whole curling community welcomed us and encouraged us to stay. 32 years later, we are still here and Jim is still playing with Don Popple (Jim owes Don 30 years of rent on their shared locker).

What I love about this story is that it highlights the importance of community and friendship and of having something to belong to. We are happier when we are joining things we love whether it is hockey, line dancing, singing, acting, skiing, church, attending a book club, yoga etc. We love to belong.

The curling club not only attracts seniors and adults, but has a program for young people as well. Our high school and elementary curlers have done really well over the years and continue to do so. A

sense of belonging is important at all ages.

For 46 years, the curling club has sponsored the Home and Cottage Show as a way of raising funds to support the curling community. This year the show will be held on June 2-4 and you can support it by attending or by renting a table. Between 2,500 to 3,500 people attend the show each year and so it is a great way to promote your club or business.

If you want more information, you can check out the halibuton-homeandcottageshow.com website. Activities like curling make our community a great place to live.

Tales from  
the great



lynda shadbolt

## Green meadow

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# points of view

## Mountain man

**T**HE OTHER day, I shaved my excess facial hair. When I say excess, I mean all the hair except the ones that hide the fact that I do not possess an identifiable chin. That hair stays.

When I finished shaving, I walked downstairs, looked at Jenn and said, "Well, what do you think?"

"Well, you need to trim the rest of your beard a little closer," she replied.

"Why?" I said.

"It's too long," she said. "You are starting to look like a mountain man."

And it wasn't even my birthday.

"Oh stop it!" I gushed.

"It's true," she said. "Trim it down."

I walked out of the room and bee-lined to the nearest mirror. And, you know, she was right.

I am starting to look like a mountain man.

I'm not trying to brag here. I mean, I don't have a full-fledged mountain man look just yet.

At best, the look I am cultivating right now is what I would call, "Early Mountain Man." Basically, it's the look that the rookie mountain man has – the one that says, "Yes, I'm growing a beard and collecting enough road-killed skunk fur to make a cool cap, but I still live with a woman, so I must bathe regularly."

So, yeah, it's not perfect.

Even so, when I gazed in that mirror a little longer, I could envision myself snowshoeing high in some snow-covered mountain valley, tripping over a beard



steve  
galea

**Loon Tales**

which had finally grown to full mountain man length of about two feet.

I know what you are thinking: mountain men never tripped over their beards. Which is true, but only because none of them had legs as short as mine. If I grow a regulation, full-length mountain man beard, it will almost certainly be a trip hazard for me. And I am OK with that.

Sure, I could grow a shorter beard, but that would mean I would have less facial hair to catch crumbs, insects, and food particles in, which would leave me at a considerable disadvantage in any survival situation.

Also, tripping here and there is a small price to pay for the privilege of being a respected member of the community – as I am sure any mountain man would be in our fair town.

Respect is only one of the advantages of mountain-maning though. There is also the cool nickname. I think we all can look fondly back on the name "Liver Eatin'" Jeremiah Johnson – one of the most famous mountain men of all time. He sounds tough but he had nothing on "Kale-Eating" Smith.

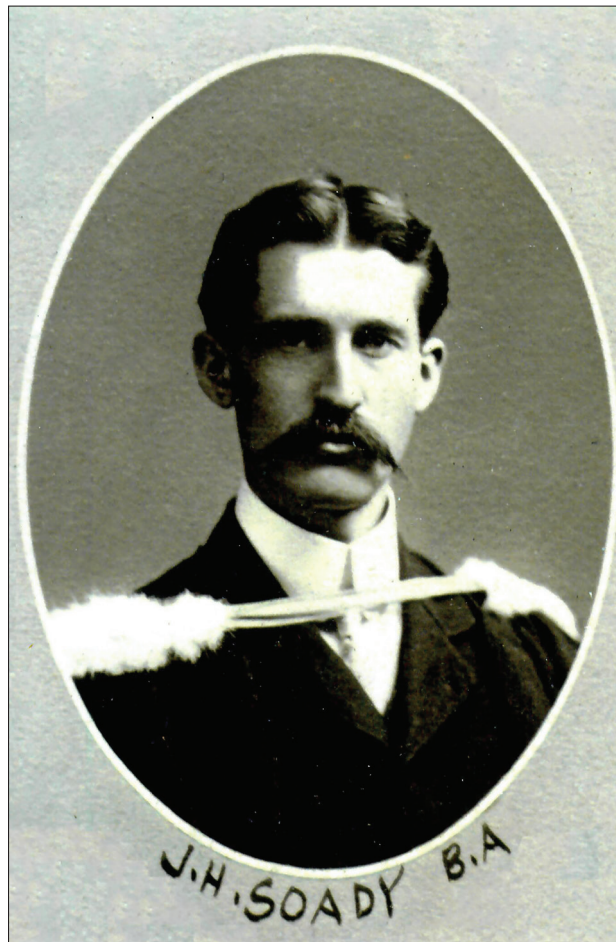
Then there is "Old Bill" Williams, renowned for his venerable age and his friends' exceptionally poor nick-naming abilities.

Nicknames aside, one of the true pleasures of mountain-manery are the stories that eventually attach themselves to you. The mountain man Seth Kinman, for instance, claimed to have hunted down and killed 800 grizzly bears. I suspect this claim was only brought forth after one of his hunting buddies claimed he had killed 799, however.

Whether this is true or not is anyone's guess. I mean, who was going to argue with a guy who just spent two years in grizzly-infested mountains with only one pair of underwear?

It is for reasons like this that I will continue upon my mountain man, beard-growing journey.

For me, all these things make the trip worthwhile.



## pic of the past

**D**r. John Hostley Soady, a Haliburton doctor, was a University of Toronto graduate in 1905. His office was a small building on Highland Street in the vicinity of where the Dawson-Gray accountants are located today (191 Highland Street). He later relocated to various other Ontario towns, finally moving to the United States, where he passed away (n.d.). The late Glenn Austin of Haliburton (1908-1999) recalled an incident in the Haliburton Public School yard when, as a child chasing a ball, he ran into the school's wire fence and cut himself badly around one of his eyes. It was a bad cut, a fraction of an inch would have cost him the eye, but Dr. Soady was able to stitch the wound shut with no repercussions. This photograph appeared in the University of Toronto yearbook "Turon-tonensis." /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum courtesy of the University of Toronto archives department

## letters to the editor

# The flag belongs to us all

To the Editor,

In a democracy, everyone has the right to protest. No one has the right to infringe upon the freedoms of others. In our country, everyone has the right to wave the flag, but no one has the right to appropriate it in support of their cause exclusively (and at the expense of others). The flag belongs to us all - equally. In addition, degrading the integrity of our flag by defiling it with foul language and misguided personal insults is most un-Canadian.

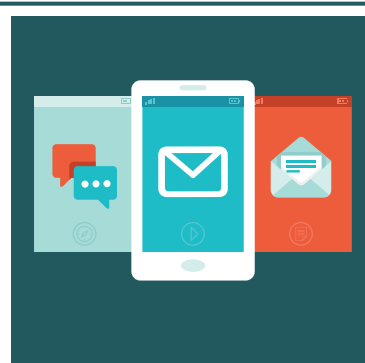
The right to freedom from masks and mandates infringes upon the right to freedom of disease and death, and vice versa. We should ideally all be more thoughtfully conscious of this, and the preservation of a just and moral balance for all. In some parts of the world, people have used face masks for generations, typi-

cally as a sign of respect and decency to help not spread their cold, flu, or infection to others. Furthermore, a number of people are immunocompromised and must wear a face covering when near others in order to minimize their chances of exposure to pathogens. As for some, even exposure to otherwise commonplace pathogens can be the difference between life and serious illness, or worse.

Possibly the most important freedom is freedom from tyranny. Perhaps at this troubling time we should be flying the Ukrainian flag in support of their life and death struggles; because in fighting for their actual freedom they're also fighting for ours - just as my parents and ancestors did.

Fred Phipps  
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to  
vivian@haliburtonpress.com



Dog days of winter

It was a perfect day to be led through Winterdance Dogsled Tours' 2,000 acres of forest by a team of five strong Huskies. Winterdance offers a variety of dogsledding trips varying in length throughout winter at their property on Hodgson Road near Haliburton Lake. Visit [winterdance.com](http://winterdance.com) for booking information. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Two teams leaders sit down for a rest after a half-day adventure on the Winterdance Dogsled Tours trails.



The Winterdance property showcases a beautiful landscape of frozen ponds, rockfaces, and hardwood forests.



Raina Cheng and her husband drove to Haliburton from Toronto for a two-hour dogsled tour on Friday, Jan. 13. Cheng pets two members of her team after a successful trip.



A husky's striking bright blue eyes look for treats at the end of the day





Haliburton local Owen Nicholls and his team from the London Curling Club recently came first in the Canada Winter Games Trials, allowing them to represent Ontario at the Winter Games in PEI in February. /Photo submitted

# Owen Nicholls leads team to Canada Winter Games

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Dreams do come true for those who put in work with passion and dedication.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 12 student Owen Nicholls knows this well after receiving the honour of representing Ontario with his U18 team from the London Curling Club, Team Stratton, at the Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island at the end of February.

The team won all six of their games in the Canada Winter Games trials in Guelph in December, ending with a nail-biting final against Team Rajala from North Bay.

"The last one was a big one, and we all knew it. When you get to a final, all the other games become almost irrelevant, other than information we can take from it, because this is a game where if you lose you go home, if you win you go to the Canada Winter Games," said the team lead.

With the chance to go to the Canada Winter Games dependent on one last game, the team owes their success to their ability to stay calm focused.

"We kept repeating to each other during that game, 'We didn't come to lose.' After that game, we were flooded with excitement and honor," Owen said. "To represent your province is something a lot of people dream to do and to be able to do it is something that can't be forgotten and feels amazing."

Owen commends the Haliburton Curling Club for giving him his start in curling.

"This is a huge reason why I am able to get to where I am today," he said, thanking his coaches Hugh Nichol and Terry Lawrence especially.

His parents said his passion and drive for the sport was evident since he started.

"He lives for it," said his father Erin Nicholls. "He loves the sport. He follows

it at all the levels men's women juniors, doesn't matter who, he follows it. Determination has come as he's grown. It's always about having fun, but as he gets older and the game is more competitive, he's embraced that."

His mother, Brianna Elder, said Owen always puts his best foot forward to everything he commits to.

Winning the Canada Winter Games Trials was a highlight for both parents because they got to see Owen's hard work rewarded in the best way imaginable; to compete nationally.

"I cried. I knew I would. It was such a proud moment as a parent," Elder said. "He and his team were so focused on the game. When they won, Owen's smile was amazing to see."

Owen also said a pivotal moment in his curling career was getting to win the Gore Mutual High School Boys provincial championship alongside Jacob Dobson, HHSS alumnus.

"This is how I got into the competitive circuit when Jacob asked me to be on his U21 competitive team. This is how I met a lot of people and brought me to getting invited to play with Team Collins, a U18 team at the provincials in 2022 where we placed third," Owen said.

It was at this competition that Team Stratton watched Owen play and later invited him to join as lead.

Team Stratton is focused on a few more competitions before the Canada Winter Games, and recently won the U18 provincial championship on Jan. 15.

"As a team, we will be focusing hard and practicing harder to prepare for these events, which in itself will prepare us for the Canada Winter Games," Owen said. "I am most looking forward to going to PEI in all our Ontario gear and experiencing what a Winter Games feels like and the atmosphere and fun that surrounds it."

Owen continues to play with the Haliburton Curling Club and is now a volunteer coach himself.

"I am very thankful for the Haliburton Curling Club," he said.

## Why Your Opinion Matters TOURISM MATTERS



You may have seen the recent Resident Sentiment Survey (RSS) that was shared online last month. Over the next six months, we will use this space to provide details about the findings of this survey and how it assists us in making decisions for the development of tourism in Haliburton County. In this first installment of six, we look at why resident input matters.

In this 'community of communities' that make up the Haliburton Highlands, it is important we get the opinions of the people that call this place home, particularly when it comes to tourism. Through the RSS, we heard from many of you on how you view the future of tourism here – from tourism in the region overall, to your thoughts on how well the needs of the community are considered, and much more.

Your input is extremely important when it comes to how we manage the Haliburton Highlands as a destination, as any decisions made about tourism and how we develop it – including the infrastructure and programs designed to support it – may provide very real benefits to your quality of life.

This community-based approach to tourism was first identified in the County's Destination Management Plan (DMP). In fact, it was flagged as a priority because tourism – and specifically tourism dollars – plays such a vital role in the overall economic and social success of our community.

The Haliburton Highlands relies heavily on the visitor economy. But what has been realized over the course of the pandemic is that it's vital to identify specific markets, instead of taking an "invite everyone approach" to destination promotion.

The DMP aims to promote the Haliburton Highlands as a premier year-round destination. To do that responsibly, we need to identify what type of visitors to target; to ask ourselves what we, as residents, love so much that visitors would also love, and to target those people directly.

**Research shows that visitors don't return to the same destination to feel like tourists. They return because they want to feel like they're part of a community. Optimizing that connection with the community is the foundation of the DMP.**

The most important goal for any destination management plan is to drive home the idea that community isn't something we have... it's something we do. To build stronger communities based on what residents want, the first step is to understand their goals and values, and to obtain that information from real-time data. That's why organizations of all sizes are developing resident sentiment surveys that provide the necessary data to benchmark, track, and address evolving public opinion year-over-year.

Through our RSS, we now have a measurable starting point that we can both refer to and build from as we develop sustainable, responsible, and community-based tourism practices where all stakeholders in the community have a say.

In total, 629 residents – full-time and seasonal – participated in the survey, which was online for a total of two weeks. Fully funded by the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization's Tourism Relief Fund, the timing on this pilot project was tight but it nonetheless provided us with valuable feedback. Going forward, we plan on releasing a new Resident Sentiment Survey every year for the next four years, with more time (approximately 10-12 weeks) given to complete it to encourage as many people as possible to participate.

Stay tuned for more details on the survey feedback, including what we've learned and how we plan to put that information into action. In the meantime, if you have any questions at all, please get in touch with

Tracie Bertrand,  
Manager of Tourism for Haliburton County  
tbertrand@haliburtoncounty.ca





# Local curler sweeps towards Switzerland

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Haliburton's Jacob Dobson and his teammates swept their way to Switzerland.

The Dobson rink went undefeated in seven outings for 120 tournament points to earn the Under-21 Canadian Junior Cup in Oshawa at the end of December. They competed against teams from Ontario, the United States, and a contingent from Switzerland.

The crew that curls out of the Burlington Golf and Country Club is comprised of skip Dobson, third Noah Garner, second Daniel Del Conte, and lead Nolan Galardo.

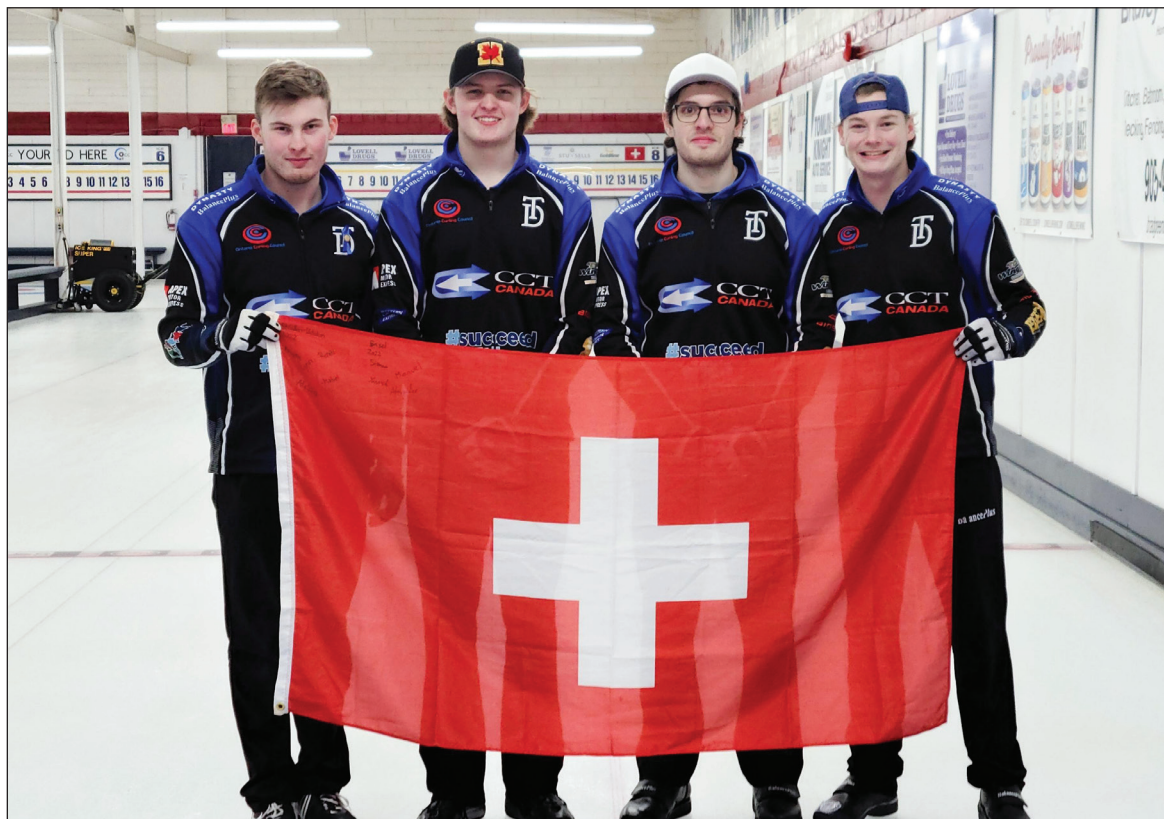
If the hardware and bragging rights aren't good enough, the Dobson crowd also netted a trip to throw rocks in Switzerland later this year.

"I've been playing for a while and had a couple good runs with a couple teams," he said.

Dobson has been curling since he was in Grade 4, he said. He pursued the sport through to his high school years and even now in post-secondary school. He's the skip on the Humber College men's team.

Owen Nicholls, another curler from Haliburton, won silver in Oshawa as a member of Team Stratton. Nichols and Dobson curled on the same team that won the 2019 Ontario School Curling Provincial Championships and again at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations level in March 2020.

But they and everybody else were sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic that



Jacob Dobson, left, of Haliburton County has been curling since he was in Grade 4, and has just successfully skipped his team to a 7-0 undefeated sweep of the Canadian Junior Cup. /Photo submitted

ground life to a halt.

Curling's pebbled ice never loses its shine, whether at the provincial, national, or college level.

"All the big [bonspiels] that I've been able to compete in or win so far are ones that I really had my mind set in trying to get to for a long time," Jacobs said.

"And try to knock off championships

along the way is something that I keep looking forward to."

He said the Oshawa bonspiel drew most of the top rinks from throughout Ontario. Dobson said he and his rink had previously competed against many of the teams that threw stones at the Canadian Junior Cup.

Being highly challenged consistently

elevates their level of play, and that should translate well on international ice.

"We got to play all those teams again, and it was some of the best curling that I probably played in my life," the skip said. "It helps us prepare for ... putting the Maple Leaf on our back and representing Canada."



**Home Games**  
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[WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA](http://WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA)

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**vs Lindsay Muskies**

**Tuesday, Jan. 24 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**vs Mississauga Chargers**

**Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 4:00 p.m.**  
**vs Wellington Dukes**

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# C21 HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

**We will be holding a draw for a chance to win a \$250 gift certificate to a local business of your choice.**

To enter the draw we are asking for a donation to the Haliburton Highlands Food Bank Foundation - Meals on Wheels. Your donation will help provide meals for seniors in need, and over 282 trips for those in need. Every \$10 donation will help provide more in our community. Every \$10

## \$1,765 Raised!!!

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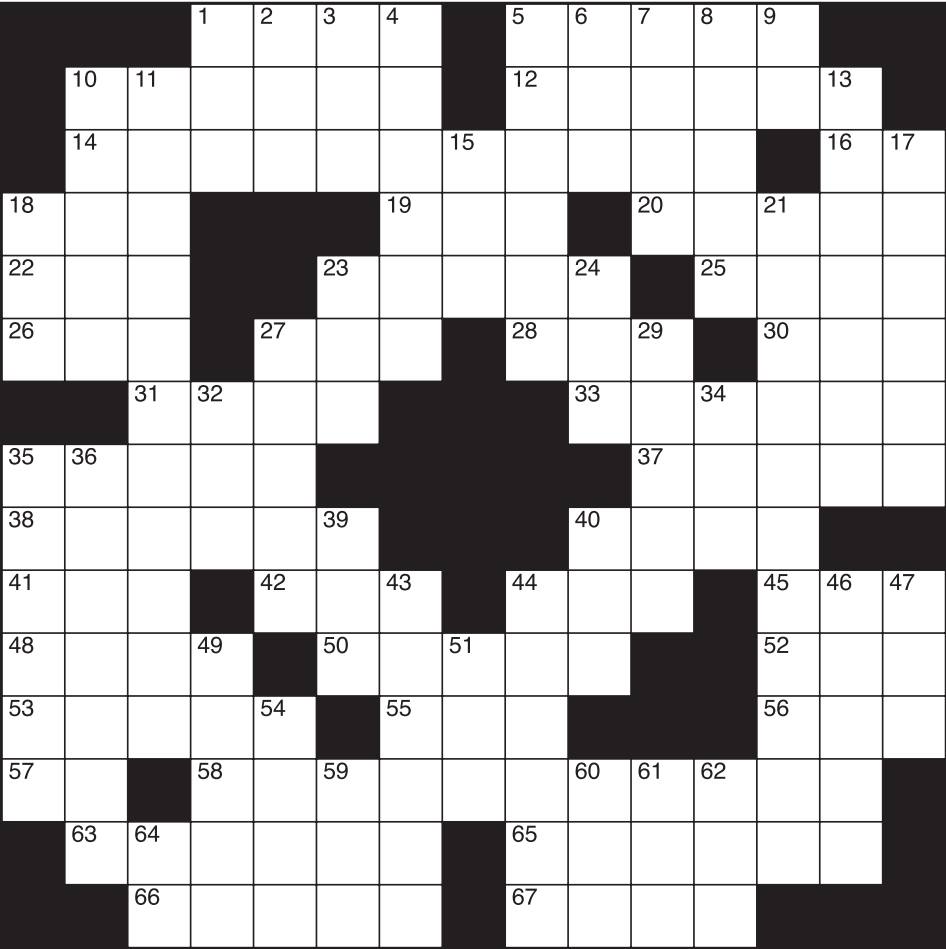
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Shed tears
- 5. Luxury jewelry designer
- 10. Goddess of wisdom
- 12. Convert into a particular form
- 14. Working-class people
- 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
- 18. A princess can detect its presence
- 19. Red-brown sea bream
- 20. Defunct retail empire
- 22. Vase
- 23. Demeter’s equivalent
- 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Small amount
- 28. High schoolers’ test
- 30. Animal’s foot
- 31. Some is red
- 33. Per \_\_: each
- 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
- 37. Plate for Eucharist
- 38. Train line
- 40. Russian pop duo
- 41. Stake
- 42. Plant by scattering
- 44. Female sibling
- 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- 48. Popular cookie brand
- 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
- 52. A team’s best pitcher
- 53. Vomits
- 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 56. Men’s fashion accessory
- 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- 58. Expensive cut of steak
- 63. Popular James Cameron film
- 65. A \_\_: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- 66. Kids’ snow toys
- 67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Global public health agency

- 2. Snake-like fish
- 3. Midway between northeast and east
- 4. Dabbed
- 5. TV show
- 6. Folk singer DiFranco
- 7. Canadian flyers
- 8. Of the dowry
- 9. Commercial
- 10. The act of imitating
- 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- 13. Lands of an emir
- 15. Swiss river
- 17. Island
- 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- 23. Garfield is one
- 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
- 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
- 32. Body part
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
- 36. \_\_ Hess: oil company
- 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
- 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 43. Pink Floyd’s Roger
- 44. Short and thick
- 46. Small, sac-like cavities
- 47. Performer \_\_-Lo
- 49. Entrails of animal used as food
- 51. \_\_ King Cole, musician
- 54. Where construction is done
- 59. Chap
- 60. Investment vehicle
- 61. Often mixed with tonic
- 62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_
- 64. Against

Answers on page 14



Stirring up a storm

Highland Storm team scores goal number 5 against the Millbrook Stars at the AJ LaRue Arena on Sunday, Jan. 15. Highland Storm won 6-1 against the Stars. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



A U13 Highland Storm Walker’s Heating and Cooling player scores on the net of the Millbrook Stars during their game on Sunday, Jan. 15.

# Recycle Right

## Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food



Food & Beverage Cartons



Plastic bottles, tubs, containers (caps can be left on)



Plastic plant pots and trays (no soil)



Glass bottles and jars



Metal beverage cans, metal food cans



Aluminum foil and trays



Cardboard canisters



Styrofoam (food and drink only)



Plastic shopping bags (clean, dry, empty)

## Recycling for Papers



Boxboard



Newspapers



Magazines & Catalogues



Paper (office, mixed, writing)



Envelopes (includes ones with windows)



Corrugated cardboard (flatten)



Paper beverage cups (lids go in Recycling for Containers)



Brown paper bags



Paper egg cartons, paper take-out trays



Toilet paper rolls, Paper towel rolls

## Garbage

Must be placed in clear garbage bags



Plastic Ziploc bags, other plastic film & bags



Plastic food pouches



Cookie, chip, bar, snack bags and wrappers



Plastic straws, plastic cutlery



Disposable gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes



Food waste (consider composting)



Broken ceramics



Incandescent or LED light bulbs (not fluorescent)



Styrofoam block and peanuts



Diapers (consider cloth reusable)



Cotton balls, pads, swabs



Fats, cooking oil, grease (never pour down sink)



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# Winter Hike Haliburton is ready to roll

EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Staff Reporter

The Hike Haliburton Winter Edition is ready to hit the ground running. After a hiatus due to the pandemic, the winter version of the popular community event will be hosted by the County of Haliburton on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5, 2023.

Tracie Bertrand, the manager of tourism for the county, shared her excitement about the upcoming festival, noting that the winter version of Hike Haliburton is a valuable tool for marketing Haliburton Highlands as a destination throughout the shoulder seasons. "Hiking can be done all year round and with

over 2000 kms of trails, the festival helps us to showcase why Haliburton Highlands should be the first choice for hiking and outdoor adventure all year long!" Bertrand said.

In September 2022, the Hike Haliburton Festival took an alternative approach to the traditional festival, adding purchasable events and experiences so participants can broaden their adventure while supporting the tourism stakeholders. This design will be applied to the winter edition of the festival as well. Bertrand said that the response to this format from participants and businesses alike was "incredibly positive."

Bertrand has been focused on creating the Haliburton Highlands as a destination that is desirable and unique. Follow-

ing the Destination Management Plan (DMP) that was completed last year, Bertrand identified that the Hike Haliburton Festival is a great opportunity to showcase the highlights of the community. "[With] over 600 lakes and 2000 kms of trails, along with the incredible variety of guided experiences, live music performances, vast array of culinary choices, the creative and natural spirit that exists in everything we love to do, and the incredible options to 'stay' and enjoy more than one day in the Highlands is what sets us apart from other destinations," she said.

With the Hike Haliburton Winter Edition, the opportunity to showcase the community to visitors extends beyond the traditional summer season. Bertrand

noted that tourism is the primary driver for economic prosperity in the region, and any opportunity to promote the destination of the Haliburton Highlands should be utilized to offset the challenges that arise during shoulder seasons.

Bertrand noted that this is a community-driven event, and not only does it highlight the best trails of the area, it also showcases the characters and knowledge of the county. "We couldn't do this without the amazing community-based volunteers and tourism stakeholders, we are so grateful for this wonderful community!" Bertrand said.

Registration for Hike Haliburton is now open. Additional information can be found at [www.hikehaliburton.com](http://www.hikehaliburton.com).





Tay Cox, Grade 6 Wilberforce Elementary School student enjoys skating with the rest of the school every other week. /Photo submitted



## Wilberforce ES embraces winter

Kaitlynn Lafontaine, Grade 6 Wilberforce Elementary School student, smiles while skating with her classmates. The school skates bi-weekly at the Wilberforce arena. /Photo submitted



**Municipality of Dysart et al**  
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**NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING  
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION  
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD  
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL**

**DATE:** January 24, 2023

**TIME:** Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

**LOCATION:** Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

**APPLICATIONS:**

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

**Applicant:** Jalon/Morris & Stillman/Swartz  
**Location:** Part of the Original Allowance for Road between Lots 20 & 21, Concession 8 and Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of the Original Allowance for Road between Lots 20 and 21, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Guilford, defined as Parts 1 to 7 inclusive on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by P.A. Miller Surveying LTD. dated June 21, 2022.

**Applicant:** Harcourt Park Inc.  
**Location:** Part of the Original Allowance for Road between Lots 10 & 11, Concession 6, Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of the Original Allowance for Road between Lots 10 & 11, Concession 6, and Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 10, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Harcourt, defined as Parts 1 to 9 inclusive, on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated September 9, 2022.

**Applicant:** Lerch  
**Location:** Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance Infront of Lot 16, Concession 8, in the Geographic Township of Harburn defined as Parts 5 and 6 on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated August 10, 2022 and the exchange of the Road Allowance for Curry Road, Plan 352, being Part 4, for Part of Lot 45, Plan 352, being Parts 2 and 3 on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated August 10, 2022.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

**BEFORE PASSING** the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

**DATED** at the Township of Dysart, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

Jeff Iles  
Director of Planning and Land Information



## Skating smiles

The Buccheri family spent time during their holiday break public skating at AJ LaRue Arena on Thursday, Jan. 5. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Open-mic brings a full house

Trina West kicks off the Haliburton County Folk Society’s open-mic night with a three-song set at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton on Saturday, Jan. 14. Hosted by singer-songwriter Trina West, guests were treated to nearly three hours of entertainment Saturday night and more than a dozen musicians. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



Hank O’Reilly AKA Haliburton Hank plays a couple Johnny Cash-inspired original tunes.



PUBLIC INVITATION FOR COMMENT

All members of the public are invited to comment on a proposal that has been submitted to Dysart and Haliburton County for the construction of three rental buildings, each containing six apartments.

The proposed project, to be called “Maple Avenue Suites” will have a total of 18 rental apartments and be located on the lands on the north-west corner of Maple Avenue and Victoria Street in Haliburton

These lands currently contain a single story home and two vacant lots

Any member of the public is invited to request an information package about this proposal, and to attend a conference call for detailed information on Friday, January 27, 2023 at 400 – 445 pm

To receive this information package or get details about the conference call, please email Richard Carson at [rcarson@deloitte.ca](mailto:rcarson@deloitte.ca)

Any comments from the public are welcome up until February 3, 2023 either to [rcarson@deloitte.ca](mailto:rcarson@deloitte.ca) or to [planning@dysartetal.ca](mailto:planning@dysartetal.ca)



Lawrence VanLieshout delights the crowd with a three-song accordion set.

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E	C	A			U	T	N	V	B		O	R	E	O	
C	L	A			S	I	S		W	O	S			B	E
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		A		D	A	R	S	A		P	E	E	W		



Bill Black performs a couple of tunes from his latest album *My Favourite Kinda Trouble*.





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[toudeforest2023@gmail.com](mailto:toudeforest2023@gmail.com) Or call Tom Green at 705-286-3628 Deadline is  
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### 580 BIRTHS



Harry and Peggy Morgan are pleased to announce the arrival of  
their new grandson, Jake River Morgan, born on November 28,  
2022 weighing 6 lbs. 3 ounces. Proud parents are Stephen and  
Stephanie Morgan of Kaufbeuren, Germany  
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Great-grandmother: Edna Morgan

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520 THANK YOU

Thank You

The family of the late **Ken Evans** extends our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the love and support shown to us following Ken's unexpected death. We are overwhelmed.

Ken had successful back surgery in Sept, but after feeling unwell for a few weeks in early Dec., was diagnosed with terminal cancer a week before he died.

Thank you to those who could attend Ken's celebration of life, donated to SIRCH, or to The 4C's, or purchased trees in Ken's name. We are so fortunate to call Haliburton home. Special thanks also to those friends and relatives who were able to come from away, or sent flowers in remembrance of Ken.

We will never forget the kindness shown to Ken by the Palliative Care Team and to us, his family. Ken was administered MAID (medical assistance in dying) by Dr. Norm Bottum and Alex Sisson as was his fervent wish. We will always be thankful that he was allowed to pass away so gently and peacefully because of them.

Ken and I have always appreciated the care given to Ken by Dr. Scott Coles, and our family thanks you again.

Thank you also to Dwaine & Laurie at Haliburton Community Funeral Home, and to Brian Plouffe for his message.

Wanda Evans & Family

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We have to hide our heartache  
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Sad are the hearts that loved you,  
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Living our lives without you,  
Is the hardest part of all.  
You did so many things for us  
Your heart was kind and true.  
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**Dad and Mom**



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650 OBITUARIES




*In Loving Memory of*  
**Wayne Frederick Toye**

*Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Sunday, December 25, 2022 with his loving family at his side, in his 77th year.*


Beloved husband of Dale (nee Barry). Dear father of Tracey and her husband Brian Morrissey, Stephanie and her husband Craig Crowe. Loving grandpa of Colin and Jamie, step-grandpa of Josh (Vivian). Brother of Gwen (deceased), Judy (Dennis-deceased), Marilyn (deceased) (Harry), Brian (Gail) and Ian (Judy). Brother-in-law of Beryl (Murray), Bryan (Anna), Wayne (Linda), Grenville (Brenda) and Phil (Sharon). Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Thursday from 4:00 until 7:00 pm and on Friday, December 30, 2022 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of the Service to Celebrate Wayne's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)



*In Loving Memory*  
**Anne Bates (Vallery)**

Anne Bates (Vallery), 74, passed away peacefully at Hospice Peterborough on Friday, January 6th with her family at her side, and surrounded by love. Anne is survived by Harvey Bates, her loving husband of 52 years. She will be deeply missed by many, including her children Nancy Tapajna (David), Steven Bates (Kelly), and Jennifer Larkin (Jason). Sister to Mary Carpenter (Roy), and Susan Vallery (Rick). Anne was the proudest "Nana" and will be remembered by her 6 Grandchildren: Megan, Taryn, Peyton, Reese, Ryan, and Finlay, and of course her loving dog Maddi. Anne was an aunt to many nieces and nephews and will be missed dearly by all. Anne will always be remembered for being so incredibly active in all her family's lives, enjoying her time on the dock, sipping on a nice glass (bottle) of wine, and her unforgettable laughter.

We would like to thank everyone we encountered during mom's battle during the last year, especially the doctors, nurses and support staff of Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Dr. Morelli and the Palliative Care Team, and all the incredible staff at Hospice Peterborough.

As per Anne's wishes, we will be holding a Celebration of Life. Details will be made available in the coming days.

In lieu of flowers, donations to a cancer charity of your choice to further cancer research would be appreciated by Anne's family

Online condolences can be made through [www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com](http://www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com)



**HIGHLAND PARK**  
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INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:

HOME FROM KABUL

Greg Forgrave gives his parents the best Christmas present ever

MIGHTY MIDGETS

Highland Storm does hometown proud in prestigious hockey competition

ROBIN SPOTTED

Christmas Bird Count includes unofficial sighting of robin on December 31

# THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007

VOL. 124 No. 2 \$1.25 INCL. GST

## Fewer kids may lead to fewer teachers

JESSICA YOUNG

Staff Reporter

For the past few years, Archie Stouffer, Stuart Baker, J. Douglas Hodgson, Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools have noticed a three-to-four per cent drop in students and the secondary school will be feeling the effects this fall.

As a result of fewer children advancing through the grades, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School will notice a decline in Grade 9 student enrollment in September, possibly resulting in the loss of two teachers, says principal Gary Brohman.

"You never know about lay offs because there are teachers who take maternity leave or there will be some teachers who retire," Brohman says. "My hope is that nobody gets laid off, but with declining enrollment, that's a reality. Fewer kids means fewer teachers. We will probably lose two teachers next year."

Paul Doiron, superintendent of elementary and secondary school operations for Trillium Lakelands District School Board, is a bit more optimistic. "We probably don't have to lay off any teachers," he says.

Doiron sees the fall in numbers as a reflection of the declining birthrate in Ontario and the county's older population.

"In most of rural Ontario, there has been a decreased birth rate. It has significance when younger folks are having fewer children. We know our society is aging. We have more boomers reaching retirement age than young people in the

See **Young families** page 12



CASEY LESSARD/ECHO

### Frosty the snow racer

Brayden Frost pushes his massive snowball into the lead in a race against his friends in the J Douglas Hodgson playground Monday. "Now that there's snow," Brayden said, "it's awesome because we got to do our annual snowball race." He and his friends were only able to have their race after about 10 cm of snow fell overnight. The snowfall was an answer to the prayers of many in the area whose businesses rely on traditional winter conditions for tourist dollars.

## Snowbirds flock to MP's passport clinic

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

Well over 100 people turned out last week for a passport clinic hosted by local MP Barry Devolin - many in anticipation of looming travel restrictions slated to take effect two weeks from today.

As of January 23, any Canadian hoping to fly to the United States will require a passport. What's more, within two years' time, the same requirements will be extended to those crossing the border by both land and sea.

Devolin says the new requirements, which are part of a larger American initiative to prevent terrorism, have prompted more Canadians than ever to

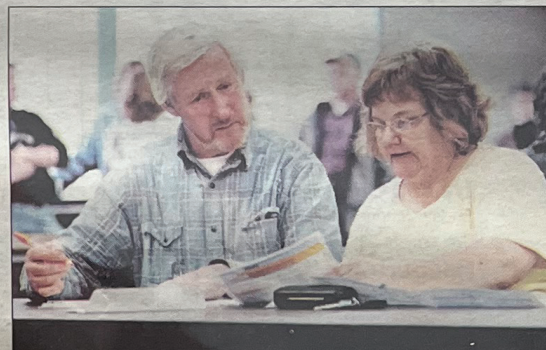
apply for a passport, which has created delays and setbacks in Passport Canada offices.

"They're running more than double their normal rate, and the line ups at some passport offices are hours long," he says.

Deborah Flood, who brought her 17-year-old son Brad to Thursday's clinic to apply for his first passport, says the U.S. regulations were the sole factor that drove her to visit last week's clinic.

"We don't travel there often but Brad's father lives down there so we need to be able to get back and forth just in case," she says.

Richard Burns of Haliburton has had a passport before but he too agrees that, at this point, his only reason for needing a passport will be in case he



GREG HOEKSTRA/ECHO

It's estimated that more than 100 people, including Jack and Loretta Billings of Gooderham, turned out last Thursday for a passport clinic in anticipation of new rules for entering the U.S..

decides to venture south of the border.

"I just thought I might be doing a little travelling to the

States soon," says Burns, following the principle that it's

See **Heavy demand** page 5

**castle building centres**

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• 24" auger width • electric start

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Proudly Serving & Supporting Our Local Communities Since 1923





BAUMGARTNER  
B|R  
REALTY GROUP

YOU CAN ALWAYS  
BUILD A SKYSCRAPER,  
BUT YOU CAN'T  
BUILD A LAKE.

WENONA LAKE  
\$650,000

2 X BED

3 X BATH

.496 ACRES

95 FT. FRONTAGE

670 SQ.FT

MLS# 40339434

SKYLINE ROAD  
\$299,000

3 X BED

2 X BATH

.675 ACRES

GREAT LOCATION

850 SQ.FT

MLS# 40357253

DRAG RIVER  
\$249,000

GREAT LOCATION

250+ FT. FRONTAGE

2.87 ACRES

MLS# 40350500

SUNNYSIDE STREET  
\$239,000

GREAT LOCATION

MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD.

0.408 ACRES

MLS# 40343482

HARBURN RD.  
\$229,900

GREAT LOCATION

MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD.

16+ ACRES

MLS# 40296528

TOWER ROAD  
\$95,000

PRIVATE

OFF-GRID

2.19 ACRES

MLS# 40343517

TORY HILL  
\$35,000

OFF-GRID

ATV ACCESS ONLY

PRIVATE

10.018 ACRES

MLS# 40364071

KC DAM ROAD  
\$650,000

3 X BED

3 X BATH

6.4 ACRES

INGROUND POOL

2321 SQ.FT

MLS# 40345292

BUILDING AND LAND  
\$298,000

COMMERICAL

2,000 SQ.FT WORKSHOP

5.129 ACRES

MLS# 40310596

THREE REASONS TO LIST DURING THE WINTER

1

People who look for a home in the winter are typically more motivated Buyers.

2

Lower inventory, means less competition.

3

Better timing! Selling your home in the Winter, means you have "first dibs" on the Spring Market.

Contact Linda today to learn more about why NOW, is the time to sell!

705-457-3461

contact@haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

★★★★★

I used Karen Wood at Linda Baumgartner & Team for both a purchase and sale of a Haliburton property. Both experiences were highly professional and efficient. Karen is very down to earth and was very attentive. She met all of her commitments and performed admirably.

– D. Coldwell

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner

(705) 457.3461

contact@haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

www.haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

RE/MAX

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